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RUSSELL
Y. Per 2 J.H. KUCHEL
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UPI-233

ADD 2 RUSSELL WASHINGTON (UPI-230)

RUSSELL SAID, "THE ONLY VOICE THAT CAN SPEAK FOR THE UNITED STATES IN A TIME OF INTERNATIONAL CRISIS IS THE VOICE OF OUR PRESIDENT. I AM SUPPORTING HIS PROGRAM TO SAVE OUR COUNTRY AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE FROM COMMUNIST DOMINATION WITH WHATEVER STRENGTH AND ABILITY I COMMAND." THE SENATOR SAID.

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, ASSISTANT SENATE GOP LEADER THOMAS H. KUCHEL, CALIF., TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HE SUPPORTS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S POSITION RATHER THAN THE POSITION ATTRIBUTED TO RUSSELL IN REPORTS OF MONDAY'S WHITE HOUSE MEETING.

KUCHEL COMMENTED THAT ADVOCATES OF INVASION IN CUBA BEGAN SPEAKING UP A YEAR AGO. HE NOTED THAT THE RECENTLY-ADJOURNED CONGRESS APPROVED A RESOLUTION ON CUBA WHICH WAS LATER REFERRED TO IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY QUARANTINE PROCLAMATION. KUCHEL SAID HE BELIEVES THE PRESIDENT WAS CORRECT IN HIS POSITION PRIOR TO THE ACQUIRING OF PROOF OF OFFENSIVE RUSSIAN WEAPONS IN CUBA AND CORRECT IN THE DECISION TO ORDER A BLOCKADE RATHER THAN AN IMMEDIATE INVASION.

KUCHEL MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE ANNOUNCED GOAL OF ELIMINATING THE RUSSIAN MISSILES FROM CUBA WILL BE ACHIEVED. HE REPLIED "NOT AT ALL," WHEN A NEWSMAN ASKED WHETHER U.S. EFFORTS IN THAT REGARD WOULD CEASE IF THE UNITED NATIONS FAILED TO SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION.

KUCHEL, DESCRIBING CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR JOHN A. MCCONE AS AN "EXCEEDINGLY CAPABLE AMERICAN" SAID HE BELIEVES THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE BUILDUP WAS VERY RAPID AND DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE U.S. WITH A "FAIT ACCOMPLI."

THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, KUCHEL SAID, HAS GIVEN THE SOVIET UNION AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSESS ITS INTENTIONS AND CALL OFF ITS BUILDUP IF IT SO DESIRES. FUTURE U.S. DECISIONS, HE SAID, WILL DEPEND ON THE SOVIET ACTION.

10/24--N752PED